

## **Topinka, Natalie**

---

**From:** Topinka, Natalie  
**Sent:** Friday, April 04, 2014 4:08 PM  
**To:** Compher, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: Complaint Re. Savoy

Hi Michael,

I'm writing about a complaint I got from a lady who lives next to a brand-new oil well. Here's the summary:

- The complainant states that she and her husband (he's 86 and she doesn't sound too much younger) have lived peacefully in their house for 12 years, but right about the time that three oil (and gas) wells were installed within ½ mile of her home, just a few months ago, she has been having 5-6 asthma attacks per day. She smells a sweet odor almost constantly since the wells have gone in.
- She has had her house evaluated for furnace troubles and radon, and has installed upgraded air purifiers and filters in her home (to no avail).
- She is completely depressed and miserable and spending the night regularly at a hotel out of town to get away from the problem. Her doctor told her she should move.
- Kristy stated that Savoy Energy has recently installed about 40 wells in the Adrian community, and has a central processing facility about 1.7 miles as the crow flies from this citizen's home. The facility is fed by 7 wells. Until recently, Savoy was flaring all its natural gas. Now it is routing it for sale.
- The wells produce oil, gas, and brine. H2S is not present. The well sites are just the wellheads and pumpjacks (no tanks at the well sites).

AECAB is looking into the oil company and will probably do an inspection, but in the meantime, she wanted to know what she could do about air quality in her home that has declined due to the air quality outside. I told her I would ask my indoor air colleagues for suggestions ☺

I am out on spring break next week. If someone would like to give her a call to discuss indoor air issues next week, feel free. Otherwise, if there is any information I should pass along to her when I speak to her next, please let me know.

Thanks,

Natalie

---

Natalie M. Topinka  
Environmental Scientist  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
77 West Jackson Boulevard (AE-17J)  
Chicago, IL 60604  
ph: (312) 886-3853  
fax: (312) 692-2410

Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility. Help EPA fight pollution by reporting possible harmful environmental activity. To do so, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>

---

**From:** Marrero, Jeanette  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2014 5:28 PM

**To:** Topinka, Natalie  
**Subject:** Complaint Re. Savoy

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

Hi Natalie,

I received this morning a citizen's complaint regarding toxic fumes coming from oil wells called this morning and I just talked to her husband that said that she had to go to the ER due to an asthma problem caused by the fumes. The company identified was Savoy in Traverse City, MI (see below).

Savoy Energy, L.P.  
920 Hastings Street, Suite A  
PO Box 1560  
Traverse City, Michigan 49685-1560

Telephone: (231) 941-9552  
Fax: (231) 941-9885

Thanks,  
Jeanette

Jeanette Marrero, Environmental Engineer  
USEPA Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (AT-18J)  
Chicago, IL 60604  
(p) (312) 886-6543  
[marrero.jeanette@epa.gov](mailto:marrero.jeanette@epa.gov)  
<http://www.epa.gov/schools>

**Topinka, Natalie**

---

**From:** Thomas Wassmer <twassmer@sienaheights.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 09, 2015 3:46 PM  
**To:** Topinka, Natalie  
**Subject:** RE: ARD Final Response

Hi Natalie,

I find it very unsatisfactory that the Adrian people, who were unnecessarily and knowingly poisoned by Savoy for more than a year, should not even get to know if and how much penalty Savoy has to pay to the EPA? for this wrongdoing. Actually - not that it really would adequately pay for the endangerment of residents living around the processing facility - but shouldn't the eventual penalty or settlement rather go to the local communities?

Best, Tom

---

Thomas Wassmer, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
Siena Heights University  
1247 E. Siena Heights Dr.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
517-264-7637

**Topinka, Natalie**

---

**From:** Thomas Wassmer <twassmer@sienaheights.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 14, 2014 6:40 PM  
**To:** Topinka, Natalie  
**Cc:** Bellairs, Katharina; Shimko, Kristine (DEQ); jberryman@adrianmi.gov; Daily Telegram Lenz, Mark; e.gable@comcast.net  
**Subject:** RE: ARD Final Response  
  
**Importance:** High

Hi everybody,

After such a long time I am just curious if the leaks miraculously disappeared or why still no complaint or violation notice was filed against Savoy - and why the local authorities are not informed.  
It is pretty obvious that the odor nuisance - and the flaring of all content but propane still goes on - and I guess this is just fine?

Thanks for clarification!

Tom

---

Thomas Wassmer, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
Siena Heights University  
1247 E. Siena Heights Dr.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
517-264-7637

**Topinka, Natalie**

---

**From:** Thomas Wassmer <twassmer@sienaheights.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2015 11:01 PM  
**To:** Tennenbaum, Susan; Shimko, Kristine (DEQ) [SHIMKOK@michigan.gov]  
**Cc:** Topinka, Natalie; Bellairs, Katharina  
**Subject:** RE: Savoy

Hi Kristie, and Natalie,

Please check out the latest Google Earth photography of the Witt Farm Area, Central Processing Farm. It looks to me as if there was a leak in the confinement of one of the tank batteries. Please let me know what you think?

Thanks, Tom

---

Thomas Wassmer, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
Siena Heights University  
1247 E. Siena Heights Dr.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
517-264-7637

June 28, 2015

Natalie Topinka / Note to Savoy Oil  
Environmental Scientist  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Chicago Illinois 60604

Dear Natalie,

1) The following problems since the week of January 24, 2014, due to processing plants on M52 in Adrian and also Lepton and Moore Rd. This also includes flares at both plants, and flares on Wisener and Speilman crossing.

- A) I began not feeling well, with several acute asthma attacks, headaches every day, dizzy, swelling of my eyes, also burning of eyes, muscle control of body. A burning sensation in my nose and down my throat. Also pain in my stomach, nausea, Severe coughing all the time.
- B) It has affected my voice for over a year with hoarseness and raspy voice. My body was trying to shut down and pass out from the toxic chemicals.

2) February 1, 2014

A) Gone to Pure Funeral Home on M52 in Adrian to pay respects to a friend who passed away. I got out of the car towards the funeral home, a flare was burning strong, the odors of chemicals were overwhelming.

B) I went into a severe asthma attack, eyes swelling and burning, chest pain, stomach pain, nausea, it was like a fire going into my nose and down the throat. I couldn't move my muscles, my husband helped me

into the funeral home to get fresh air, started to pass out from the smell. Heart pressure in my chest and lungs, used a inhaler, but it didn't help much, severe coughing.

- 3) Went to Emergency Rooms for breathing treatments quite often. Also stayed at motels away from the processing plants so I could breath fresh air.
- A) Visited my Primary doctor often about the complaints
  - B) Visited my Pulmologist doctor often about the complaints
  - C) Visited my Allergist doctor often about the complaints
  - d) Visited my Cardiologist doctor often about the complaints
  - e) In July, 2014, I had a heart attack, with congestive heart failure. I have only 30% of my heart working.
  - f) Using steroid inhaler all the time, then went into using a breathing treatment machine also with the inhaler.
  - g) It's been a living hell for me, what I have been going through. You processing plants and flares has taken my life from me by not properly maintaining correctly the chemicals and leaks that are occurring there at the facilities.
  - h) I made several attempts to have a meeting with you or representatives, through phone calls, note on lease renew paper. The secretary I called several times referred me to Steven from Savac. No response from him, only I could hear him and the secretary laugh when I asked where he was, couldn't I speak with him, she responded by saying he's around somewhere. He never returned my calls.

4) March 20, 2014

- A) My Husband and I called and talked to Administration Assistant, Barbara Parrish from Savoy. We didn't want to sign a 2 year extension of oil lease on our property. We told her all about what serious problems I was having smelling the toxic fumes from the two processing plants, and to have someone from Savoy to call us. No response.
- 3) At Country Club Golf Course, where you and associates were signing up people for oil leases. The statement was made, if there's any problems, feel free and call me and will get them corrected right away. I, meaning you, stated we hadn't had any problems so far, so I, meaning you, don't foresee any. No mention of flakes and processing plants or injection wells were ever talked about being installed in Adrian and Adrian Township, only how much money the people could make by having these oil wells on their property.
- c) There are still severe chemical leaks from M52 and also Tipton & Moore Rd in Adrian. How many more children, elderly and other people who will become seriously ill and die prematurely from these toxic chemicals. Other people in Adrian and Adrian Township will become forth to you to be accountable for not having better quality control over the facilities.
- d) Please fix all leaks of chemicals coming from the processing plants. We deserve to have fresh air to breathe. Have them corrected as soon as possible, it's your responsibility to one human being to another.

5) As a result of toxic chemicals I breathe, my lungs are sealed and hard to breathe any fresh air. I can't sit on my deck anymore, being outside, enjoying my yard and flowers. Even taken my dog out, when only a few minutes outside, I come in and have stomach pain, nausea, headaches, pressure in my lungs as a result from your processing plants for violations on Clean Air Act.

A) Please for God's sake take big steps to correct the processing plants, so they are not releasing fumes of toxic chemicals in the air. I beg you with all my heart and soul. Set them corrected right away. It's been over one year so far, don't wait any longer to fix them.

With thanks and gratitude to you Natalie, for helping me and believing in me that there was something wrong at the processing plants in Adrian and Adrian Township.

I care about people!

Thank You Again,  
Sincerely,

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

VENDOR: 008234 CHECK DATE:

03/20/2014

CHECK NO.:

(copy) to Savoy  
to renew lease)

INVOICE NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	GROSS	DISCOUNT	NET
5876-0005	03/06/2014	TWO YEAR EXTENSION - 5876-000	185.00	under the law, we weren't allowed to back out of it)	*at bottom of page Note stating of the chemicals and fumes from processing plants. *Told secretary to tell about our problems in Adrian Township to Savoy. No response from Savoy.

SAVOY ENERGY, L.P. 12-95

DATE

03/20/2014

EXACTLY

\$185.00 DOLLARS AND

00 CENTS

\$185.00

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

not responsive

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

## RECEIPT

Received this check on this \_\_\_\_ Day of March, 2014, as payment for a two year extension under the terms of Oil and Gas Lease dated April 15, 2011, and executed by **Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)** Trustees to Savoy Energy L.P. covering lands in Sec. 27, T6S-R3E, Adrian Twp, Lenawee County, Michigan

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

LIVING TRUST

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)****Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

5876-000 We are signing this lease if the lessor with the understanding that this does not mean we are satisfied with the new Savoy oil from what has already made him with the

and after I have left about 14 people say to me the pollution  
they are emitting the fumes that are causing [REDACTED] to have  
serious health problems. The recycling plants were also mentioned  
if meeting, we had such a busy day at their representation  
as are a coffee problem, for people who have to breath  
that in there is a community, we would appreciate you  
telling the air pollution committee the recycling plant.

Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)

## Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)

Thank you

LENAWEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
Record of Complaint

(Copy)  
filed on 2/24/2014  
Complaint about  
toxic chemicals smell &

## Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)

Address of Property Where Complaint is Located

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number at Home Where Complaint is Located:

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

Name of Township Where Complaint is Located:

*Adrian Township*

Township Section Number:

Name of Property OWNER Where Complaint is Located:

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

Address of Property OWNER

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

OWNER Phone Number

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Complaint Regarding:  
Circle One

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Water Supply | 2. Sewage Disposal |
| 3. Housing      | 4. Garbage/Refuse  |
| 5. Rodents      | 6. Insects         |
| 7. Chemicals    | 8. Hazardous Waste |
| 9. Fuel Service | 10. Other/Smoking  |

Date and Time violation

Describe the Complaint

*Raw, asthma,*

*and the smells of hazardous chemicals released  
in the air, has been throat and made  
her have many asthma attacks. When she*

If more space is needed, please attach an additional page.

Name of Person Making Complaint

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

Street Address

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

State

Zip Code

City

Telephone Number

Date: 2/24/2014

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

Health Department Use Only- Do Not Write Below This Line

Preliminary Evaluation by:

Date:

Complaint is under the jurisdiction of another agency & was forwarded to:

Complaint is not valid.

Complaint is valid & under the jurisdiction of this department.

Investigation:

Correspondence:

Date:

S.D. Letter #

Well Letter #

Complaint Letter#

Other#

Is complaint closed?  Yes  No  N.A. (If so, please sign below)

DATE: 2/24/2014 REC'D BY: [REDACTED] COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (copy)

Smells the chemicals she gets right headed and begins to pant but, then goes into asthma attack. After that she gets a headache and pains in her stomach. She coughs a lot, trying to bring up phlegm to clear her bronchial tubes and lungs. She has no Prior attacks as devastating as these are now. Hard breathing can't catch her breath; it feels like she can't get enough air in her lungs. It all started when the oil company started putting in gas & oil wells. The one well is across the street from our home and may systems worsen. This

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

Date: 2/24/2014 REC'D BY: [REDACTED] COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (copy)  
to [REDACTED]

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**

Topic Chemicals (E.P.A. website)  
from what chemical exposure can  
do to humans.

oil wells & processing plants that  
trigger asthma and breathing problems

- 1) Benzene ( $C_6H_6$  formula) E.P.A. website  
to A. Neurological systems of inhalation exposure  
benzene include: drowsiness

dizziness  
headaches

liver cirrhosis in humans

B. Chronic inhalation of certain levels of benzene  
causes disorders in the blood in humans  
affects bone marrow

anemia

excessive bleeding

damage to the immune system (by changes  
in blood levels of antibodies and loss of  
white blood cells).

cancer

- 2) Formaldehyde E.P.A. website

Exposure may cause severe allergic  
reactions of the skin, eyes and respiratory  
tract.

A. Burning of eyes

B. Burning of skin

- 3) Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) E.P.H. website

A. Respiratory effects including bronchoconstriction  
and increased asthma symptoms. These effects  
are particularly important for asthmatics at  
elevated ventilation rates.

B. Studies show a connection between short-  
term exposure and increased visits to emergency  
room and hospital admission for respiratory  
illnesses, particularly in at risk population,  
including children, elderly and asthmatics.

(SO<sub>2</sub>) Sulfur Dioxide can react with other compounds in the atmosphere to form small particles. These particles penetrate deeply into sensitive parts of the lungs and can cause or worsen respiratory disease, such as emphysema, bronchitis and can aggravate existing heart disease, leading to premature death.

(E.P.A. was created to provide protection against these health effects)



1st copy to Nancy Jenkins  
letter received from her  
and D.E.Q said there was no  
problems at processing plants.

57TH DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514  
PHONE: (517) 373-1706  
TOLL-FREE: (855) 292-0002  
FAX: (517) 373-5777  
E-MAIL: nancyjenkins@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**NANCY E. JENKINS**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
STATE POLICE (VC)  
MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS (VC)  
AGRICULTURE AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
JUDICIARY  
TRANSPORTATION

July 7, 2014

**Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)**



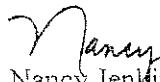
Thank you for reaching out my office regarding the air quality concerns around your home. I can assure you that I take the health and safety of the people I represent very seriously. I appreciate your patience as my staff and I did the necessary research on your case.

After having contacted the DEQ in regards to the testing practices and regulations for operations like the ones around your home, I was directed to the regional DEQ officers for our area. They were already familiar with your case and said that they and their department staff had been in contact with you repeatedly. We discussed at great length the testing procedures used on the facilities around your home. This included a state of the art infrared scanner used by the EPA that is capable of detecting even the smallest of leaks. We also discussed the "smell test" that you were concerned about. They assured me that this is only an initial test that they use during their initial survey of a potential hazard and that it is followed up by more scientific measures.

I was informed that these tests have been conducted at all the facilities and that they had already come to your home to test for any problems there as well. They assured me that the tests and scans had all come back negative for pollutants, chemicals, fumes or other hazardous materials that would come from the facilities.

I understand that this may not be the solution you were looking for, but I can assure you that all precautions are being taken to ensure the health and safety of those residents who live in the area around these facilities. If there is anything else I can do to assist you please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

  
Nancy Jenkins  
State Representative  
57<sup>th</sup> House District

October 9, 2014

2<sup>nd</sup> copy to Glancy Jenkins  
no responds from 2<sup>nd</sup>  
letter.

Glancy Jenkins  
State Representative  
57<sup>th</sup> House District

Dear Glancy Jenkins:

In calling your office to send information to you about our oil processing plants around our home. I'm sorry for not getting back sooner with the reports from E.P.A. from Chicago, about violations that are occurring at these facilities.

My health has been a big issue in the past few months, with several <sup>were</sup> asthma attacks, that I made several trips to Bayley Hospital emergency room. Also, to my doctor's office in Plymouth. Also, Henry Ford Hospital Respiratory Dept. These visits are from serious asthma attacks from fumes, fumes and chemical smells from Savoy Oil facilities that are escaping due to leaks. People with asthma or breathing problems, it is really bad for their health. When I smell a flare that's burning, my body starts to pass out and shut down, then I have to get fresh air or breathing treatments to come out of it. Currently, there are three large flakes on U.S. 12, between Saline and Clinton, which I try to avoid going that route on the way to St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor, to Michigan West. I also had a heart attack and congestive heart failure in July, 2014. I have been on steroids since January 2014 when the oil wells and processing plants were put in Adrian Township.

The E.P.A. sent the reports of the leaks to Air and Radiation Dept of E.P.A. As of now, I don't know if they review the violations that are at Savoy's oil processing plants in Adrian

As far as the D.E.Q of Jackson, deer area, was the question asked by you. Do they have a art infrared scanner to detect any leaks, or do they just go out and smell the area. (you mentioned in your letter) that they have scientific measures to check the facilities, does that mean they don't have infrared scanner. The state of the art, to do proper checking of leaks at the facilities. In regards to E.P.A. they used the infrared scanner on the oil processing plants in Adrian Township and found seventeen leaks. I have enclosed several documents and pictures and what were the violations of the leaks found at 9M-52 location. They also did the check on the oil processing plant at Tipton Hwy and Moore Rd. The E.P.A. hasn't sent me the reports yet, but verbal told me that there were approximately the same violations.

The D.E.Q from Jackson made a report showing Savoy Oil Co. does the testing at the sites, for chemicals used at the site and then turn it over to the D.E.Q. How accurate could that be, if the D.E.Q doesn't do the testing to make sure it's correct measurements. I feel that's a conflict of interest, D.E.Q, is suppose to represent the people of Michigan, not the oil companies.

It takes several months to repair violations from the oil company, which they were given that option. In the meantime, how we are suffering from the chemicals that's in the air.

The Governor Snyder has given the oil companies free range of overtaking people's rights of their land and environment, water pollution).

There are several cities and townships who are now trying to stop the oil companies from coming in their area and polluting the earth, air, water.

'Where is our freedom gone to?

I thank you very much for reading my story, I love Michigan and the people in it. I know you have a busy schedule, I appreciate all that you do for us.

Please keep Adrian Township in your prayers for a healthy, clean environment which all of us can enjoy. The oil companies can change things to eliminate the leaks and pollution of chemicals in the air and water.

God Bless America!

God Bless the citizens in our area and Michigan

Thank you again,

## Ex. 6 (Personal Privacy)



Please call or write me about this situation.